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History of the Missionary  
Society of the First







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HISTORY OF THE  
MISSIONARY SOCIETY  
of the  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MIDDLE POINT, OHIO

Allen County Public Library  
900 Webster Street  
PO Box 2270  
Fort Wayne, IN 46801-2270



A record compiled by

Mrs. Fred Straley  
Mrs. Thomas Evans  
Mrs. John G. Ringwald  
Mrs. Chester Wortman

February, 1942





## THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY

The Missionary Society of the First Presbyterian Church of Middle Point, Ohio, was organized for the first time during the pastorate of the Rev. William Fuller in 1874. The church members then worshiped in a white frame structure which was located on the same site as the present brick church. We regret that we have no records of the activities or of the officers of that first early group.

During the pastorate of the Rev. D. Evans Jones in the year 1899 we find an active\* Missionary Society, with Miss Jennie Morgan, President, Miss Nora Williams, Secretary, and Mrs. P. S. Morgan, Treasurer.

The Missionary Society was changed to a Ladies' Aid Society during the pastorate of Rev. John Todd in the years 1900-1902, when funds were much needed to carry on local church work.

\*From a printed program in possession of Mrs. John Ringwald, showing group activities during 1899.





The reorganization of the Missionary Society took place on November 13, 1918, at the home of Rev. and Mrs. William Surdival, during the regular meeting of the Aid Society. The two groups met together with the same officers serving both the Missionary and Aid Societies until June 1919, when it was decided that they separate and meet as two separate societies.

The official Missionary Society records for the two years 1919-20 and 1920-21, have not been located. However, from the minutes of the Session we find that Mrs. Gertrude Jones reported at the annual meeting of the Church that the Missionary Society was meeting regularly, and fulfilling its obligations. The church record\* also shows that the Missionary Society took the responsibility for conducting the weekly prayer service for the church.

\*Minutes in 1921, from church book.





During the next twenty years 1922-1942, we have complete records of the meetings and activities of the Society. The minutes of these meetings show well planned programs for group study of the regular home and foreign mission topics. The books also show that the Society met its financial obligations to the missionary work regularly and faithfully. Five pastors served the church and worked with the group during this period: 1914-1923 Rev. William Surdival; 1923-1925 Rev. Russel Woltz; 1926-1928 Rev. F. J. Peterson; 1928-1939 Rev. T. F. Campbell; and the present pastor, Rev. O. L. Willets, who began his work here in 1939. During the present pastorate in the year 1940, the two womens' organizations i. e., Aid and Missionary Society, banded together as one group under the name of the Presbyterian Guild.

The membership during the past twenty years has remained about the same in number.





In 1924 there were approximately\* seventy women in the parish with an actual figure of fifty active members on the roll of the Missionary Society. At the present time we have seventy-seven women in the parish, and fifty-seven actively contributing toward the support of the Guild. Our average attendance during the past year at regular meetings was twenty; however, about thirty-five women attended and took part in meetings sometime during the year.

Mrs. John G. Ringwald, who helped compile this history, can date her membership in the Missionary Society back to the year 1899, of which year we have the first official record. She is the only living member of this early group.

\*Church records show total church membership 155, 1924.



## OFFICERS

1899--Miss Jennie Morgan, President  
Miss Nora Williams, Secretary  
Mrs. P. S. Morgan, Treasurer

1918-1919--Mrs. C. F. Eversole, President  
Mrs. Rueben Showalter, Vice Pres.  
Mrs. M. P. White, Secretary  
Mrs. Rueben Kesler, Treasurer

1919-1921--No record.

1921-1922--Mrs. Gertrude Jones, President  
Mrs. Ruth Baxter, First V. President  
Mrs. John Swanders, Second V. Pres.  
Mrs. Rueben Showalter, Secretary  
Mrs. Edna Leathers, Treasurer  
Miss Mary E. Jones, Corres. Sec'y.

1922-1923--Mrs. Charles Longwell, President  
Mrs. Ruth Baxter, First V. Pres.  
Mrs. John Swanders, Second V. Pres.  
Mrs. Clifford Showalter, Sec'y.  
Mrs. C. F. Eversole, Ass't. Sec'y.  
Mrs. Edna Leathers, Treasurer  
Miss Mary E. Jones, Corres. Sec'y.

1923-1924--Mrs. Russel Woltz, President  
Mrs. Ruth Baxter, First V. Pres.  
Mrs. John Swanders, Second V. Pres.  
Mrs. C. F. Eversole, Sec'y.  
Mrs. Clifford Showalter, Ass't. Sec'y.  
Mrs. Frank White, Treasurer  
Miss Mary E. Jones, Corres. Sec'y.

1924-1925--Mrs. Russel Woltz, President  
Mrs. Victor Showalter, First V. Pres.  
Mrs. John Swanders, Second V. Pres.





Mrs. C. F. Eversole, Secretary  
Mrs. Clifford Showalter, Ass't. Sec.  
Mrs. D. C. Mohler, Treasurer

1925-1926--Miss Mary E. Jones, President  
Mrs. George Snyder, First V. Pres.  
Mrs. John Ringwald, Second V. Pres.  
Mrs. Clifford Showalter, Secretary  
Mrs. Edna Leathers, Ass't Sec'y.  
Mrs. D. C. Mohler, Treasurer  
Mrs. C. F. Eversole, Corres. Sec'y.

1926-1927--Miss Mary E. Jones, President  
Mrs. George Snyder, First V. Pres.  
Mrs. John Ringwald, Second V. Pres.  
Mrs. C. F. Eversole, Secretary  
Mrs. J. E. Jones, Treasurer  
Mrs. Arthur Ringwald, Recording Sec

1927-1928--Mrs. C. F. Eversole, President  
Mrs. George Snyder, First V. Pres.  
Mrs. John G. Ringwald, Second V. Pr  
Mrs. Fred Straley, Secretary  
Mrs. J. N. Jones, Treasurer

1928-1929--Mrs. C. F. Eversole, President  
Mrs. John Swanders, First V. Pres.  
Mrs. Arthur Ringwald, Second V. Pre  
Mrs. Ora Meadows, Secretary  
Mrs. Edna Leathers, Treasurer

1929-1930--Mrs. J. Kunert, President  
Mrs. C. F. Eversole, Vice President  
Mrs. D. C. Mohler, Secretary  
Mrs. Edna Leathers, Treasurer

1930-1931--Mrs. C. F. Eversole, President  
Mrs. Thomas Evans, Vice President  
Mrs. D. C. Mohler, Secretary  
Mrs. Edna Leathers, Treasurer





1931-1932--Mrs. C. F. Eversole, President  
Mrs. Thomas Evans, Vice President  
Mrs. D. C. Mohler, Secretary  
Mrs. Edna Leathers, Treasurer

1932-1933--Mrs. C. F. Eversole, President  
Mrs. D. C. Mohler, Secretary  
Mrs. Edna Leathers, Treasurer

1933-1934--Mrs. C. F. Eversole, President  
Mrs. D. C. Mohler, Sec'y.  
Mrs. Edna Leathers, Treasurer

1934-1935--Mrs. C. F. Eversole, President  
Mrs. D. C. Mohler, Secretary  
Mrs. Edna Leathers, Treasurer

1935-1936--Mrs. C. F. Eversole, President  
Mrs. Thomas Evans, Vice President  
Mrs. D. C. Mohler, Secretary  
Mrs. Edna Leathers, Treasurer

1936-1937--Mrs. C. F. Eversole, President  
Mrs. Thomas Evans, Vice President  
Mrs. D. C. Mohler, Secretary  
Mrs. W. E. Beach, Treasurer

1937-1938--Mrs. Thomas Evans, President  
Mrs. Dale Wortman, Vice President  
Mrs. W. E. Beach, Secretary & Treas.

1938-1939--Mrs. Thomas Evans, President  
Mrs. Dale Wortman, Vice President  
Mrs. W. E. Beach, Secretary  
Mrs. Clifford Showalter, Treasurer

1939-1940--Mrs. W. E. Beach, President  
Mrs. Thomas Evans, Vice President  
Miss Esther Showalter, Secretary  
Mrs. Clifford Showalter, Treasurer



1940-1941--Mrs. W. E. Beach, President  
Mrs. Lee Rice, First V. President  
Mrs. Thomas Evans, Second V. Pres.  
Miss Esther Showalter, Secretary  
Mrs. Clifford Showalter, Treasurer

1941-1942--Mrs. Fred Straley, President  
Mrs. Jane Pollock, First V. Pres.  
Mrs. Thomas Evans, Second V. Pres.  
Mrs. Pryse Johnson, Secretary  
Mrs. Dale Wortman, Treasurer

1942-1943--Mrs. Fred Straley, President  
Mrs. Jane Pollock, First V. Pres.  
Mrs. Thomas Evans, Second V. Pres.  
Mrs. Pryse Johnson, Secretary  
Mrs. Dale Wortman, Treasurer















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